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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

MARCH 1985

RELEASE DATE:
April 25, 1985

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1985				REVISED FEBRUARY 1985				REVISED MARCH 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,925.7	1,701.1	224.6	11.7	1,919.7	1,690.5	229.2	11.9	1,918.6	1,718.2	200.4	10.4
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	62.6	56.6	6.0	9.6	62.2	56.1	6.1	9.7	61.7	56.5	5.2	8.4
Baton Rouge 2/	250.2	226.2	24.0	9.6	250.1	225.4	24.7	9.9	244.2	224.2	20.0	8.2
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	84.8	75.0	9.8	11.5	84.3	74.4	9.9	11.7	84.2	74.4	9.8	11.6
Lafayette 4/	108.9	99.3	9.6	8.9	108.9	99.1	9.8	9.0	111.7	102.2	9.5	8.5
Lake Charles 5/	74.3	62.7	11.6	15.6	74.3	62.6	11.7	15.8	78.1	66.2	11.9	15.2
Monroe 6/	61.9	55.8	6.1	9.9	61.8	55.3	6.5	10.6	62.8	56.9	5.9	9.5
New Orleans 7/	568.5	502.8	65.7	11.6	568.6	502.0	66.6	11.7	570.5	517.5	53.0	9.3
Shreveport 8/	160.8	147.0	13.8	8.6	160.0	145.8	14.2	8.9	158.1	144.6	13.5	8.6

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,584,100 for March, a decrease of 600 from February's level but 5,800 above the March a year ago figure. A decrease in the state's nonmanufacturing payrolls was responsible for the downturn in total nonagricultural employment. Manufacturing employment was higher for the current month.

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Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing was up by 400 from last month's level. Decreased activity by logging contractors and less need for millwork, plywood and structural members resulted in a decrease in employment for the lumber and wood products industry. Less need for concrete, gypsum and plaster products primarily accounted for the decrease in stone, clay and glass products employment. More business for iron and steel foundries and nonferrous foundries contributed to higher employment in the primary metal industries. Fabricated metal products employment fell in March as a result of a decrease in the manufacture of certain miscellaneous fabricated metal products. Machinery, except electrical, payrolls were up due largely to increased production of engines and turbines. Employment in the electrical and electronic equipment industries was lower as the demand for communication equipment decreased. Transportation equipment payrolls were up due to more business for the state's shipyards.

Employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing was 93,200 for March, a decrease of 200 from the February figure. An upturn in food and kindred products was due in large part to increased production of beverages and of some miscellaneous foods and kindred products. Decreased output of men's and boy's suits and coats and of men's and boy's furnishings resulted in a lower employment level for the apparel and other textile industry. Petroleum and coal products employment was down from last month due in large part to a slowdown in petroleum refining activity. Less business in several segments of the chemicals and allied products industry resulted in lower employment levels.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during March was 1,404,800, down by 800 from the February figure. Mining employment was lower this month as a result of decreased production of crude petroleum and natural gas. An upturn in general building construction and heavy construction accounted for the increase in construction payrolls. Transportation and public utilities experienced a decrease in employment level largely due to a slowdown in trucking and warehousing and less activity at the state's ports. Trade payrolls were up in March largely as a result of increased business in both the durable and nondurable goods segments of wholesale trade. Several segments, most significantly real estate, contributed to the increase in finance, insurance and real estate employment. Decreases in business services were especially significant in the downward fluctuation of services employment. Government employment in March was down mostly due to decreases in state and local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 126,900 production workers in manufacturing increased from $427.87 in February to $428.28 in March, an increase of $0.41 and an increase of $11.86 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were six cents higher in March than last month and $0.36 more than March of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.3 for the current month, down by 0.2 hours from February's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for March amounted to 224,600, a decrease of 4,600 from the February level of 229,200. The unemployment rate for March was 11.7 percent compared to 11.9 percent last month and 10.4 percent in March of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 7.5 percent compared to 7.8 percent in February and 8.1 percent in March a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force went from 1,919,700 in February to 1,925,700 in March, an increase of 6,000. Total employment for Louisiana moved from 1,690,500 in February to 1,701,100 in March, an increase of 10,600.

Louisiana's unemployment rate may fall slightly in the next month or two. Manufacturing employment in Louisiana could edge up slightly in the upcoming months. Trade, services and government employment are expected to increase next month. Mining employment may fall during next month.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Quachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change from February 1985	Net Change from March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,584.1	1,584.7	1,578.3	- 0.6	+ 5.8
MINING	79.4	80.2	80.4	- 0.8	- 1.0
Oil and Gas Extraction	76.4	77.2	77.2	- 0.8	- 0.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.2	0	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	107.7	106.9	115.7	+ 0.8	- 8.0
MANUFACTURING	179.3	179.1	178.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Durable Goods	86.1	85.7	80.4	+ 0.4	+ 5.7
Lumber and Wood Products	13.2	13.4	13.2	- 0.2	0
Furniture and Fixtures	1.0	1.0	0.8	0	+ 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.9	8.0	7.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.8	3.7	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.4	12.5	12.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
Machinery, Except Electrical	10.4	10.1	9.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	11.3	11.4	9.5	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Transportation Equipment	23.6	23.1	20.5	+ 0.5	+ 3.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	93.2	93.4	98.1	- 0.2	- 4.9
Food & Kindred Products	19.2	19.1	20.9	+ 0.1	- 1.7
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.0	9.1	9.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	11.2	11.2	11.8	0	- 0.6
Printing & Publishing	10.2	10.2	10.0	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	28.2	28.3	29.5	- 0.1	- 1.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.7	11.8	13.2	- 0.1	- 1.5
Petroleum Refining	10.8	10.9	12.2	- 0.1	- 1.4
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	116.6	117.3	116.5	- 0.7	+ 0.1
Railroad Transportation	7.3	7.3	7.2	0	+ 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	67.4	68.1	66.8	- 0.7	+ 0.6
Communication & Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Ser.	41.9	41.9	42.5	0	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	378.7	377.8	373.4	+ 0.9	+ 5.3
Wholesale Trade	95.3	94.5	93.5	+ 0.8	+ 1.8
Retail Trade	283.4	283.3	279.9	+ 0.1	+ 3.5
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	57.1	57.4	58.0	- 0.3	- 0.9
Food Stores	54.1	53.9	51.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.7	32.6	31.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Eating & Drinking Places	85.3	85.3	85.0	0	+ 0.3
Other Retail Trade	54.2	54.1	53.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.6	83.2	82.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Banking	27.4	27.4	27.0	0	+ 0.4
SERVICES	311.9	313.0	309.8	- 1.1	+ 2.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.1	22.2	22.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Services	289.8	290.8	287.8	- 1.0	+ 2.0
GOVERNMENT	326.9	327.2	321.5	- 0.3	+ 5.4
Federal	34.3	34.2	34.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State and Local	292.6	293.0	287.4	- 0.4	+ 5.2
State	101.6	101.7	106.2	- 0.1	- 4.6
Local	191.0	191.3	181.2	- 0.3	+ 9.8

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$428.28	$427.87	$416.42	41.3	41.5	41.6	$10.37	$10.31	$10.01
Durable Goods	394.69	393.87	369.15	40.9	40.9	40.7	9.65	9.63	9.07
Lumber & Wood Products	299.06	305.36	270.78	38.0	38.8	38.3	7.87	7.87	7.07
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	367.03	375.44	368.11	40.2	40.5	41.5	9.13	9.27	8.87
Fabricated Metal Products	395.62	395.43	362.40	41.6	41.8	40.0	9.51	9.46	9.06
Machinery, ex. Electrical	447.45	399.80	380.49	42.9	39.9	39.8	10.43	10.02	9.56
Electric & Electronic Equip.	423.06	425.14	423.95	40.1	40.8	41.2	10.55	10.42	10.29
Transportation Equipment	441.98	455.67	435.55	41.0	41.5	41.6	10.78	10.98	10.47
Nondurable Goods	464.96	463.94	461.13	41.7	42.1	42.5	11.15	11.02	10.85
Food & Kindred Products	287.65	288.12	264.61	38.2	39.2	36.7	7.53	7.35	7.21
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	211.38	205.67	217.31	39.0	39.1	43.9	5.42	5.26	4.95
Paper & Allied Products	541.01	534.23	526.06	42.7	42.5	42.7	12.67	12.57	12.32
Printing & Publishing	363.53	361.42	354.09	39.3	39.2	39.3	9.25	9.22	9.01
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	636.27	634.92	634.51	43.7	44.0	43.4	14.56	14.43	14.62
Petroleum & Coal Products	669.29	680.17	669.84	47.1	47.3	50.1	14.21	14.38	13.37
Petroleum Refining	695.01	707.55	681.21	47.8	48.1	50.2	14.54	14.71	13.57
MINING	558.71	553.64	521.80	49.4	49.3	46.3	11.31	11.23	11.27
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	472.82	479.99	459.33	39.9	39.8	39.7	11.85	12.06	11.57
BANKING	242.68	241.77	230.05	37.8	37.6	37.9	6.42	6.43	6.07

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 126,900 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 103,500 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 03 85				REVISED 02 85			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	24,175	21,150	3,025	12.5	23,850	20,800	3,050	12.8
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	6,400	5,000	1,400	21.8	6,275	4,925	1,350	21.6
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	10,775	9,000	1,775	16.4	10,850	8,900	1,950	18.1
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	12,725	10,000	2,725	21.5	12,650	9,750	2,900	22.9
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,550	10,875	1,675	13.3	12,425	10,750	1,675	13.5
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	7,225	6,425	800	11.2	7,175	6,350	825	11.5
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	5,100	4,425	675	13.4	5,100	4,375	725	14.3
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,575	4,150	425	9.1	4,550	4,125	425	9.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	6,100	5,100	1,000	16.4	6,000	4,975	1,025	17.0
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,350	6,675	675	9.2	7,300	6,650	650	8.9
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,425	8,375	2,050	19.6	10,325	8,325	2,000	19.4
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	11,950	10,600	1,350	11.3	11,800	10,450	1,350	11.4
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	5,375	4,175	1,200	22.1	5,250	4,025	1,225	23.3
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,000	7,025	975	12.2	7,850	6,900	950	12.2
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,925	11,675	2,250	16.2	13,725	11,450	2,275	16.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,925	7,175	1,750	19.7	8,850	7,050	1,800	20.3
COLFAX (GRANT)	3,975	3,150	825	21.0	3,925	3,075	850	21.8
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	34,900	30,675	4,225	12.1	34,450	30,250	4,200	12.2
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	15,825	13,625	2,200	13.9	15,750	13,525	2,225	14.1
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,425	5,800	625	9.7	6,400	5,750	650	10.3
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,075	11,125	1,950	14.8	12,750	10,925	1,825	14.3
JENA (LASALLE)	6,400	5,750	650	10.1	6,425	5,725	700	11.0
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	21,400	20,375	1,025	4.8	21,125	20,125	1,000	4.7
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,575	4,575	1,000	18.1	5,625	4,525	1,100	19.4
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,375	10,550	1,825	14.8	12,500	10,450	2,050	16.3
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,475	15,650	1,825	10.4	17,550	15,575	1,975	11.3
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	13,800	12,625	1,175	8.6	13,775	12,600	1,175	8.6
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	13,225	11,700	1,525	11.5	13,075	11,425	1,650	12.6
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,275	3,825	450	10.8	4,275	3,775	500	11.8
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	9,000	7,675	1,325	14.8	9,075	7,550	1,525	16.7
MANY (SABINE)	8,425	7,475	950	11.2	8,325	7,400	925	11.2
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	4,275	3,825	450	10.6	4,200	3,750	450	10.9
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	11,025	9,175	1,850	16.8	11,025	9,125	1,900	17.3
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	34,775	28,400	6,375	18.3	34,575	27,950	6,625	19.2
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	33,025	28,375	4,650	14.1	32,675	28,075	4,600	14.1
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	36,550	30,350	6,200	17.0	36,350	30,025	6,325	17.4
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,225	2,825	400	12.3	3,225	2,775	450	14.1
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	7,525	6,475	1,050	14.0	7,450	6,375	1,075	14.4
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	24,750	21,450	3,300	13.3	24,525	21,250	3,275	13.4
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	12,375	10,900	1,475	11.9	12,300	10,875	1,425	11.6
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	14,900	12,475	2,425	16.2	14,850	12,400	2,450	16.4
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	15,550	13,325	2,225	14.4	15,475	13,150	2,325	15.0
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,650	3,350	1,300	27.9	4,625	3,250	1,375	29.6
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,775	3,425	350	9.1	3,800	3,400	400	10.7
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,575	4,950	625	11.1	5,525	4,925	600	10.8

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.4	45.2	44.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.3	11.0	10.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Retail Trade	9.0	8.7	8.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.0	1.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.3	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	3.7	3.6	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	9.9	9.9	9.7	0	+ 0.2
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	12.9	13.0	12.9	- 0.1	0
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.5	10.4	- 0.1	0
State	5.3	5.3	5.4	0	- 0.1
Local	5.1	5.2	5.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area during March was 45,400. This estimate is 200 more than the previous month and 1,200 more than March of last year.

Total employment in the manufacturing segments remained unchanged since the previous month. Since March of last year, employment in manufacturing has increased by 200 with the gain being in other durable goods.

Total employment in the nonmanufacturing industries increased 200 since last month, and 1,100 since March of last year. Changes since last month came in retail trade and government. Since last year each major segment had an increase with this exception of mining, construction, finance, insurance and real estate; and government as each remained unchanged.

During the next thirty days as weather conditions improve, outdoor related employment will increase with a corresponding decline in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	215.6	215.6	209.0	0	+ 6.6
MANUFACTURING	21.2	21.2	21.4	0	- 0.2
Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.0	1.0	0.8	0	+ 0.2
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	17.0	17.0	17.4	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.0	2.1	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.3	12.3	12.9	0	- 0.6
Other Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.1	0.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
MINING	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	22.4	22.1	21.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.8	10.8	10.3	0	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	52.6	52.1	49.7	+ 0.5	+ 2.9
Wholesale Trade	10.9	11.1	10.9	- 0.2	0
Retail Trade	41.7	41.0	38.8	+ 0.7	+ 2.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.3	13.3	12.5	0	+ 0.8
SERVICES	39.6	40.0	38.8	- 0.4	+ 0.8
GOVERNMENT	54.5	54.9	53.8	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Federal	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
State and Local	52.5	52.9	51.8	- 0.4	+ 0.7
State	31.9	32.3	31.7	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Local	20.6	20.6	20.1	0	+ 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$532.40	$519.95	$500.99	44.0	42.9	42.1	$12.10	$12.12	$11.90
Petro-Chemicals	703.06	679.17	643.28	45.3	44.8	43.0	15.52	15.16	14.96

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 215,600 during March was unchanged from the revised February estimate; however, it was up 6,600 over March of last year. Totals for manufacturing and nonmanufacturing were unchanged during the current period.

Estimated employment in manufacturing at 21,200 during March, was unchanged from the revised February total. Durable goods were unchanged and nondurable goods had two offsetting changes. Food and kindred products were up due to seasonal increases in sugar and confectionary products and more business in meat products. Other nondurable goods were down due to seasonal decreases in miscellaneous apparel and accessories.

Employment in nonmanufacturing at 194,400 during March, was unchanged from February's revised total. Construction was up due to more business in heavy construction and in highway and street construction, except elevated highways. No change, during the current period, was estimated in mining, transportation and public utilities, and in finance, insurance and real estate. Wholesale trade was down due to less business in machinery, equipment and supply, in electrical goods and in metals and minerals, except petroleum. Retail trade was up due to more business in automobile dealers and gasoline service stations, in eating and drinking places, and in miscellaneous retail stores.

Services were down due to seasonal declines in photographic studios, portrait and legal services and less business in personnel supply services, hospitals and outpatient care facilities. State government was down due to budget restraints.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,600 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $532.40 in March, up $12.45 from February's revised average. Average weekly hours at 44.0 was up 1.1 hour and average hourly earnings were down two cents. Longer scheduled work week and most overtime by lower paid employees contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 226,200 during March, up 800 over February's revised estimate and up 2,000 over March of last year. Unemployment at 24,000 during March was down 700 from last month's revised estimate. March's unemployment rate was 9.6 percent compared to 9.9 percent for last month and 8.2 percent in March of last year. The comparable state unemployment rate for March was 11.7 percent. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 250,200 during March.

The unemployment rate is expected to have some decline during the coming month due to seasonal factors and good weather helping construction and retail trade activities.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,800 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 813 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for February, 1985 for all urban consumers was 317.4 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 313.9 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	62.1	62.0	60.1	+ 0.1	+ 2.0
MANUFACTURING	6.5	6.3	5.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Durable Goods	4.7	4.6	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
MINING	8.2	8.3	7.6	- 0.1	+ 0.6
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.1	3.0	- 0.1	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.1	7.1	7.3	0	- 0.2
Water Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.7	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.8	14.9	14.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.5	3.6	+ 0.1	0
Retail Trade	11.2	11.4	11.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.5	3.7	3.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.4	2.3	2.4	+ 0.1	0
SERVICES	9.1	9.0	9.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	11.0	11.0	10.8	0	+ 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
State and Local	10.6	10.6	10.4	0	+ 0.2
State	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Local	7.7	7.7	7.5	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in March edged up to 62,100, showing a slight overall gain of 100 since February. Small upturns in manufacturing and parts of nonmanufacturing offset downturns in other segments of nonmanufacturing.

Manufacturing employment totaled 6,500 in March, 200 above last month's total. The increase was spread throughout both durable and nondurable sectors with only printing and publishing exhibiting a small decrease. Compared to one year ago, 1,200 workers have been added to area manufacturing payrolls.

Nonmanufacturing changes were minor, with small decreases barely offsetting slight gains. Retail trade eased down, largely in eating and drinking places. Partly offsetting this downturn, wholesale trade edged up in durable goods. Mining and construction each showed a small decrease, despite the arrival of better weather conditions. More favorably, finance, insurance, and real estate added workers. Services were boosted by a slight increase in business services. Transportation and public utilities held steady. Government showed no significant change in any major sector.

Estimated unemployment in March eased down to 9,800, a level of 100 below February. A minor gain in employment was mostly responsible. Current joblessness comprises 11.5 percent of the labor force compared to 11.7 percent in February and 11.6 percent in March of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.5 percent in March was slightly lower than the state rate of 11.7 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.5 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 2,474.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show a seasonal increase. Mining and construction will probably add workers, taking advantage of better weather conditions. Retail trade is predicted to push up seasonally. Unemployment is anticipated to rise, reflecting the larger number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force as the summer season approaches.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	96.7	96.8	97.4	- 0.1	- 0.7
MANUFACTURING	5.8	5.7	6.0	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.4	3.8	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	1.6	1.5	1.6	+ 0.1	0
MINING	16.0	16.4	16.7	- 0.4	- 0.7
CONSTRUCTION	5.3	5.1	5.3	+ 0.2	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.2	7.2	6.9	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.8	25.5	25.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.6	6.8	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	19.2	18.9	18.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.6	2.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food Stores	3.2	3.2	2.9	0	+ 0.3
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	11.4	11.2	11.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.1	4.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICES	19.4	19.5	19.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.2	13.3	13.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	12.3	12.4	12.5	- 0.1	- 0.2
State	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0
Local	7.1	7.2	7.3	- 0.1	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette stood at 96,700 during March, a decrease of 100 from the previous month and 700 below a comparable period a year ago. The decrease was noted in nonmanufacturing.

The largest decrease in nonmanufacturing was in the mining segment of the economy. There was a decrease of 400 from the previous month and a 700 decrease from March of 1984.

Construction showed a slight increase of 200 from the previous month and remained the same from March a year ago.

Trade showed an increase of 300 from the previous month and 200 above a comparable period a year ago.

Other areas of the economy showed little fluctuation from previous tim

The economy continues to remain sluggish. This is due to fact that a recovery in the oil industry has never materialized. Industry analysts see no sign of change until late in the year or possibly early 1986.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.9	57.8	59.6	+ 0.1	- 1.7
MANUFACTURING	9.0	9.0	9.7	0	- 0.7
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Nondurable Goods	8.2	8.2	8.9	0	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.3	7.3	8.0	0	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.6	3.6	4.2	0	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.4	4.4	4.2	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.3	14.3	14.3	0	0
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Retail Trade	11.0	11.0	11.0	0	0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.6	1.6	1.9	0	- 0.3
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.6	2.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.6	10.7	11.5	- 0.1	- 0.9
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.1	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.5	10.4	10.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	4.0	3.9	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Local	6.5	6.5	6.4	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment edged upward 100 to the current estimate of 57,900. All of the increase occurred in the manufacturing sector. The current level is 1,700 less than the March 1984 level.

Manufacturing showed no change from the previous month but 700 less than a comparable period a year ago. This loss was noted in the manufacture of chemical and petroleum products.

Nonmanufacturing showed an increase of 100 from the previous month and a 100 decrease from March of 1984. The only other notable change was in services. There was 100 decrease from February of 1985 and a 900 decrease from a comparable period a year ago.

The economy in Lake Charles continues along with a high unemployment rate. The rate should remain about the same until the summer time. This particular area continues to await word about the possibility of locating a naval base in this area.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	533.8	534.3	536.7	- 0.5	- 2.9
MANUFACTURING	47.3	46.9	46.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Durable Goods	24.1	23.8	23.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.5	0.6	+ 0.1	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.4	2.5	2.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
Fabricated Metal Products	2.8	3.0	2.8	- 0.2	0
Machinery, Except Electrical	3.1	2.9	2.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	13.4	13.1	12.0	+ 0.3	+ 1.4
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.8	8.5	7.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.1	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	23.2	23.1	23.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	6.6	6.5	7.0	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.8	3.4	0	+ 0.4
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.9	4.9	5.0	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
MINING	20.2	20.2	19.4	0	+ 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	31.5	31.5	36.3	0	- 4.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	46.5	46.4	47.4	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	15.2	14.8	15.5	+ 0.4	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	140.8	140.8	136.7	0	+ 4.1
Wholesale Trade	35.4	35.5	36.1	- 0.1	- 0.7
Retail Trade	105.4	105.3	100.6	+ 0.1	+ 4.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	32.1	31.8	33.0	+ 0.3	- 0.9
SERVICES	129.0	130.1	128.7	- 1.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	86.4	86.6	88.7	- 0.2	- 2.3
Federal	14.9	14.8	15.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
State and Local	71.5	71.8	73.7	- 0.3	- 2.2
State	21.2	21.6	22.3	- 0.4	- 1.1
Local	50.3	50.2	51.4	+ 0.1	- 1.1

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$430.13	$430.95	$436.58	41.2	41.2	42.1	$10.44	$10.46	$10.37
Durable Goods	407.43	397.55	421.28	40.5	39.4	41.1	10.06	10.09	10.25
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	441.38	498.83	423.36	37.5	41.5	43.2	11.77	12.02	9.80
Fabricated Metal Products	417.60	414.45	452.84	45.0	45.0	42.6	9.28	9.21	10.63
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	398.66	390.87	379.71	39.2	38.7	38.2	10.17	10.10	9.94
Nondurable Goods	455.70	467.42	452.74	42.0	43.2	43.2	10.85	10.82	10.48
Food & Kindred Products	328.85	330.40	320.69	40.3	41.3	39.3	8.16	8.00	8.16
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	171.13	178.06	191.88	31.4	30.7	36.0	5.45	5.80	5.33
Paper & Allied Products	399.63	376.53	419.60	46.2	46.2	47.9	8.65	8.15	8.76
Printing & Publishing	365.87	368.01	369.36	42.2	43.5	42.8	8.67	8.46	8.63
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	654.26	687.36	650.56	43.1	45.4	42.8	15.18	15.14	15.20

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 31,200 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.8	53.6	53.8	+ 0.2	0
MANUFACTURING	7.1	7.1	7.3	0	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.2	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	- 0.1
MINING	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	2.8	2.9	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.8	15.9	14.6	- 0.1	+ 1.2
Wholesale Trade	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	10.4	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.0	3.1	2.8	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.7	3.7	3.0	0	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.2	4.2	3.9	0	+ 0.3
SERVICES	10.5	10.6	10.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
GOVERNMENT	9.7	9.6	11.2	+ 0.1	- 1.5
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.1	9.0	10.6	+ 0.1	- 1.5
State	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Local	4.3	4.2	5.4	+ 0.1	- 1.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe area rose by 200 to an estimated 53,800 during mid-March. The gain was in nonmanufacturing.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,100 was unchanged from the February estimate.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 46,700, was 200 above the February estimate of 46,500. Construction, estimated at 3,100 was 300 above the February estimate. Improved weather conditions aided in this gain to a depressed industry. Government was the only other segment showing a gain as it rose by 100. Services was down by 100. Wholesale and retail trade also experienced a loss of 100. All other segments were unchanged.

Over the next 60 days, employment is expected to rise slowly until local educational facilities complete the spring semester. Over the same period, a slight decrease in unemployment is expected.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1985*	February 1985**	March 1984**	Net Change From February 1985	Net Change From March 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	144.3	143.2	138.4	+ 1.1	+ 5.9
MANUFACTURING	22.6	22.5	21.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Durable Goods	18.2	18.1	16.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.8	0	- 0.2
Metals and Machinery	12.3	12.4	10.8	- 0.1	+ 1.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.4	2.4	2.5	0	- 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	9.9	10.0	8.3	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Other Durable Goods	5.3	5.1	5.3	+ 0.2	0
Nondurable Good	4.4	4.4	4.8	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
MINING	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	9.7	9.3	8.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.6	8.7	8.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.7	34.2	32.7	+ 0.5	+ 2.0
Wholesale Trade	9.5	9.4	8.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Retail Trade	25.2	24.8	23.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.7	7.8	7.7	- 0.1	0
SERVICES	30.2	29.8	28.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	25.8	25.9	25.3	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Federal	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	21.5	21.6	21.1	- 0.1	+ 0.4
State	6.8	6.8	6.7	0	+ 0.1
Local	14.7	14.8	14.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**	March '85*	February '85**	March '84**
11 MANUFACTURING	$416.96	$429.91	$427.12	40.6	41.1	43.1	$10.27	$10.46	$9.91
Lumber and Wood Products	230.91	217.16	212.49	43.0	39.7	36.7	5.37	5.47	5.79
Metals and Machinery	420.04	420.34	406.43	41.1	41.7	41.6	10.22	10.08	9.77
Food and Kindred Products	294.88	288.86	276.11	41.3	40.4	39.9	7.14	7.15	6.92
Printing and Publishing	267.25	257.44	252.36	30.3	29.9	29.9	8.82	8.61	8.44
Petroleum and Coal Products	430.80	394.88	359.52	40.0	37.5	42.8	10.77	10.53	8.40

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans LMA in March decreased to 533,800, down 500 from February. In nonmanufacturing, most industry groups either showed reductions in employment or narrowly held steady. Partly offsetting losses, manufacturing exhibited several small gains.

Manufacturing employment totaled 47,300 in March, an increase of 400 over last month's total. Increases were reported in machinery and ship and boatbuilding and repairing. Stone, clay and glass products and fabricated metal products responded to less business over the month with layoffs. Seasonal increases in seafood processing and manufacturing of bottled beverages offset further layoffs in sugar and confectionary products in the food industry. Employment in the manufacturing industries is up 800 compared to this same time last year.

Services showed the largest decrease of any industry division over the month, moving down by 1,100. Business services exhibited a sizable downturn. Automotive repair services made retrenchments. The hotel-motel industry effected downward adjustments. Government reduced employment in the state sector. More favorably, finance, insurance and real estate each added workers. Transportation was boosted by an upturn in water transportation. In trade, a small gain in retail trade was offset by a minor decrease in wholesale trade. Construction held steady. Mining displayed no significant change.

Average weekly earnings for area production workers was $430.13 in March, down $0.82 from last month's average. The change was due to the drop of two cents in average hourly earnings as average weekly hours remained the same over the month. Compared to one year ago, average weekly earnings are down $6.45.

Estimated unemployment in March decreased to 65,700, down 900 from February. Current joblessness accounts for 11.6 percent of the labor force compared to 11.7 percent in February and 9.3 percent on March of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.6 percent in March was slightly lower than the state rate of 11.7 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.5 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totaled 18,012. About 45.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; approximately 29.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to display an overall gain. Mining and construction will probably add workers, taking advantage of better weather conditions. Most forms of transportation are predicted to exhibit some upturn. Unemployment is anticipated to rise seasonally, reflecting the larger number of entrants and reentrants in the labor force as the summer season approaches.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport LMA increased to 144,300, up from 143,200 last month and is 5,900 more than in March, 1984. The manufacturing employment estimate is nearly unchanged from last month, while nonmanufacturing employment shows a significant gain.

Manufacturing employment continues to be stable with only a slight growth in durable goods. The employment estimate for total manufacturing, at 22,600, is 100 more than last month.

Nonmanufacturing employment increased to 121,700, up from the revised February estimate of 120,700. This employment increase occurred in trade, construction and services. Three segments, transportation and public utilities, finance, insurance and real estate and government experienced an employment loss of 100 each.

This labor area has an estimated 17,600 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of $416.96. The average weekly hours were 40.6, down from 41.1 last month, while the average hourly earnings fell from $10.46 to $10.27, but remains above the year ago average of $9.91.

The total civilian labor force in the Shreveport area is 160,800, including 147,000 employed and 13,800 unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area is 8.6 percent.

Improved employment conditions should continue in this labor area throughout the second quarter of 1985. Total unemployment for this area will likely decline to nearer 13,000.